

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L TEGUCIGALPA 3382

EO 11652 GDS
TAGS: MORG, XM, HO
SUBJECT: HOST COUNTRY MILITARY TRAINING

REF: (A) STATE 166382, (B) 77 TEGUCIGALPA 1765 (DTG 202101Z APR 77)

1. HONDURAS ARMED FORCES HAVE NO PLANS TO ESTABLISH NEW SCHOOLS TO REPLACE EXISTING U.S. MILITARY SCHOOLS WHICH FULFILL THEIR REQUIREMENTS. THEY ARE PLANNING TO INITIATE A COMMAND AND STAFF COURSE FOR OFFICERS IN LATE 1979 OR EARLY 1980. THIS COURSE IS NOT INTENDED TO REPLACE THAT CURRENTLY OFFERED AT THE SCHOOL OF THE AMERICAS; RATHER IT IS TO SUPPLEMENT AND BETTER PREPARE HONDURAN OFFICERS FOR THE USARSA COURSE, IN ADDITION TO BEING MORE SPECIFICALLY

ORIENTED TOWARDS HONDURAN MILITARY PROBLEMS.

2. HONDURAN MILITARY OFFICERS DO STUDY OR UNDERTAKE EXCHANGE PROGRAMS WITH THIRD COUNTRIES, BUT U.S. REMAINS THE PRIMARY PARTNER. FOLLOWING IS RESUME OF SUCH PROGRAMS USED BY GOH:

(A) ARMY
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--GREAT BRITAIN - HONDURAS PLANS TO SEND ARMOR OFFICER STUDENTS

--SPAIN - PROFESSIONAL STUDIES (LAW, MEDICINE, ETC)

--TAIWAN - SENIOR OFFICER COURSES (PERSONNEL MGT, PSYCHOLOGICAL OPERATIONS, ETC)

--GERMANY - TRAINING AT UNIT LEVEL (JR OFFICERS)

--ITALY - COMMAND AND GENERAL STAFF (2 MAJORS)

--BRAZIL - COMMAND AND GENERAL STAF (2 MAJORS)

--CHILE - ENGINEERING (2 OFFICERS)

--PERU - C&GS, INF SCHOOL, ENGINEER SCHOOL

HONDURAS ALSO HAS CADET EXCHANGE PROGRAMS WITH NUMEROUS
OTHER COUNTRIES IN LATIN AMERICA WITH MILITARY ACADEMIES

(B) NAVY

--VENEZUELA - MARINE TRAINING

(C) AIR FORCE

-- MEXICO - 1 STUDENT AIR CADET, WILL GRADUATE IN 1981

--VENEZUELA - 1 STUDENT AIR CADET, WILL GRADUATE IN 1979

--SPAIN - 2 STUDENT AIR CADETS, STARTING TRAINING IN AUGUST

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--ISRAEL - MECHANIC TRAINING IN ISRAEL, ISRAELI TECHNICIANS
IN HONDURAS TRAINING AND PROVIDING TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO HAF.

3. COMMENT: IN SPITE OF SOME IRRITANTS TO PROGRAM, HONDURAN
ARMED FORCES CONTINUE TO WISH TO USE U.S. MILITARY SCHOOLS
AND DOCTRINE. ASIDE FROM ITS PILOT TRAINING SCHOOL,
HONDURAN MILITARY RELIES HEAVILY ON U.S. MILITARY SCHOOLS,
ESPECIALLY THOSE IN PANAMA FOR TRAINING. THE GOH PLACES
AN IMPORTANT VALUE ON ITS MILITARY RELATIONSHIP WITH US, AND
PARTICULARLY THE TRAINING SCHOOLS WHICH, WERE THEY NOT AVAILABLE,
WOULD REQUIRE IT TO DIVERT FUNDS FROM OTHER PROGRAMS TO ESTABLISH
ITS OWN OR TO SEND STUDENTS TO (LESS PREFERRED) THIRD COUNTRIES.
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